

2012 Legislative Session: Day 40 Update

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Presentation to: Board of Human Services

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Georgia Department of Human Services

Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

How the Big Bills Fared

- **Juvenile Code Re-Write**
 - Legislation did not pass.
 - **HB 641 ((Courts; juvenile proceedings, substantially revise provisions):** Passed the House (172;0). Assigned and remained in Senate Judiciary.
 - **SB 127 (Juvenile Proceedings; revise provisions):** Remained in Senate Rules.
- **Public Assistance – Drug Testing and Personal Growth Activity Requirements**
 - **HB 861 (Law enforcement officers; report drug related arrests to Department of Human Services; require):** Passed by both chambers as amended; sent to the Governor.
 - **SB 292 (Social Responsibility and Accountability Act):** Passed the Senate (35;18). Assigned to House Judiciary. SB 292 remained in House Rules. Legislation did not pass.
 - **HB 668, HB 698, HB 699 (TANF Drug Testing):** Remained in House Judiciary. Legislation did not pass.
 - **SB 312 (Public Assistance; applicants for food stamps and temporary assistance; require personal growth activities):** Passed the Senate as amended (40;14). Remained in House Rules. Legislation did not pass
 - Amendment names additional clients exempt from participating in the “personal growth activities.”
 - Five-county pilot remains subject to the availability of funds.
 - TANF requirements removed from legislation.

How the Big Bills Fared

- **Transfer of Vocational Rehabilitation**
 - **HB 1146 (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board; create):** Passed both chambers; sent to the Governor.
 - Creates Vocational Rehabilitation as an independent agency administratively attached to DHS.
- **Aging Study Committee**
 - **SR 979 (Creates Senate Aging Study Committee):** Passed the Senate.

DHS-Related Legislation – Passed By Day 40

- **HB 397 (State government; open meetings and records):** Passed both chambers as amended; sent to the Governor.
- **HB 456 (Georgia Government Accountability Act):** Passed both chambers; sent to the Governor.
- **HB 863 (State Purchasing; purchases without competitive bidding):** Passed both chambers; sent to the Governor.

DHS-Related Legislation – Passed By Day 40

- **HB 1110 (Health; penalties relative to owning or operating of unlicensed personal care homes; revise provisions):** Passed both chambers; sent to the Governor.
- **HB 1176 (Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform):** Passed both chambers as amended; sent to the Governor.
 - House added language to the legislation to expand mandatory reporting requirements of child abuse.
- **SB 428 (Administrative Procedure; provide for agency reports regarding federal government mandates and duplicate state/federal regulation):** Passed by both chambers as amended; sent to the Governor.

DHS-Related Legislation – Did Not Pass By Day 40

- **HB 23 (Foster Children’s Psychotropic Medication Monitoring)**
 - **Bill Summary:** Legislation would have required DHS/DFCS to establish reporting and tracking requirements related to the provision of mental health services and the administration of psychotropic medication.
- **HB 633 (Statewide Child Abuse Reporting)**
 - **Bill Summary:** This legislation would have required DHS/DFCS to create a statewide reporting system, with a toll free telephone number and an internet based reporting method for non-mandated reporters which must be operational twenty four hours a day and seven days a week, including holidays.
- **HB 966 (Human Services; examine income tax records held by Department of Revenue; allow)**
 - **Bill Summary:** This legislation would have provided DHS Benefit Fraud Investigators with a necessary tool to be used during investigations of alleged fraud and/or prosecutions against individuals fraudulently receiving food stamp and/or public assistance benefits.

Next Steps

- **Conduct a legal and programmatic analysis to determine the full impact of the legislation**
- **Develop and rollout any policy and practice changes to meet new requirements**